

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, IT
SUBJECT: ENERGY DISCUSSIONS

1. ON JUNE 3 I HELD COURTESY MEETING WITH TWO OF THE
LEADING ITALIANS IN THE ENERGY FIELD: PIERO SETTE,
PRESIDENT OF ENI (ITALIAN HYDROCARBONS AGENCY) AND
ARNALDO MARIA ANGELINI, PRESIDENT OF ENEL (NATIONAL
ELECTRICAL AGENCY). ALTHOUGH OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE RATHER
GENERAL, I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFER TO THE PRESIDENT'S
APRIL 7 POLICY STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR POWER AND HIS APRIL
20 ENERGY SPEECH, AS WELL AS THE SPEECH I GAVE RECENTLY
ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY POLICY. IN PARTICULAR, I
STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S NUCLEAR POWER POLICY WAS
BASED ON HIS CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, INCLUDING
DANGEROUS POTENTIAL FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY, THAT IT WAS
BY NO MEANS ATTEMPT BY USG TO DICTATE TO OTHER NATIONS
AND THAT IT DID NOT REPRESENT "VETO" BY U.S. COMMERCIAL
INTERESTS FOR COMPETITIVE REASONS BUT RATHER DEEPLY-FELT
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BELIEFS OF THE PRESIDENT. BOTH SETTE AND AGELINI
EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THIS.

2. SETTE MADE A POINT OF DESCRIBING THE LONG-STANDING
AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN ENI AND U.S. COMPANIES,
PARTICULARLY PHILLIPS. HE ALSO LAID GREAT STRESS ON
NECESSITY FOR CONTINUING AND EXPANDING COOPERATION IN THE

ENERGY FIELD BETWEEN U.S. AND ITALY.

3. ANGELINI GAVE ME A USEFUL DESCRIPTION OF ITALY'S EFFORTS ON CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLY. HE LISTED AS TOP PRIORITY THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES, MENTIONING ITALY'S EFFORTS IN EXPANDING AVAILABILITY OF HYDRO AND GEOTHERMAL POWER. AS DID SETTE, ANGELINI ASSERTED THAT ITALY MUST DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER, AND HE DESCRIBED SOME OF THE EFFORTS AND PROBLEMS RELATED THERETO.

4. I WAS GRATIFIED THAT BOTH OF THESE INFLUENTIAL FIGURES SPOKE WARMLY OF THE NEED FOR COLABORATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRESIDENT'S NUCLEAR POWER POLICY. WHILE NEITHER DIRECTLY CRITICIZED OUR BILATERAL ENERGY PROGRAM, I TOOK THAT TO BE ESSENTIALLY A QUESTION OF COURTESY, SINCE BOTH ARE KNOWN TO FEEL DISAPPOINTED AT LIMITED RESULTS THUS FAR. I URGED BOTH OFFICIALS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ME ON THIS CRUCIAL SUBJECT, AND I EMPHASIZED THAT I WOULD APPRECIATE THEIR FRANK VIEWS AT ANY TIME. GARDNER

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